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|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                               | 10/662,890             | PATRON ET AL.       |  |
|                               | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                               | Naresh Vig             | 3629                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 20 May 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
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Naresh Vig  
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

The drawings have been approved by the examiner.

### ***EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was done following a telephone interview with Jeffrey G. Toler (Registration Number 38,342) on 07 November 2006.

After the examiner's amendment, amended claims will read as follows.

1. A method comprising:

receiving a request from a parent or guardian of a minor to sign up for an Instant Messaging (IM) service on behalf of the minor at a server;

providing a Web-based profile administrator interface to the parent or guardian;

receiving a profile, created by the parent or guardian using the Web-based profile administrator interface, that comprises one or more control policies for usage of the IM service by the minor at the server;

receiving a request from the minor to log on to the IM service using a client device; and

communicating information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the policy engine comprises [a] the plug-in for an instant messaging client.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the policy engine comprises [a] the plug-in for an instant messaging client.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the policy engine comprises [a] the plug-in for an instant messaging client.

11. A system comprising:

a first server to receive a request from a parent or guardian of a minor to sign up for an Instant Messaging (IM) service on behalf of the minor, to provide a Web-based profile administrator interface to the parent or guardian, and to receive a profile, created by the parent or guardian using the Web-based profile administrator interface, that comprises one or more control policies for usage of the IM service by the minor; and

a second server to receive a request from the minor to log on to the IM service using a client device, and to communicate information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the policy engine comprises [a] the plug-in for an instant messaging client.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the policy engine comprises [a] the plug-in for an instant messaging client.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the policy engine comprises [a] the plug-in for an instant messaging client.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is system, method for a parent or guardian of a minor to sign up for an Instant Messaging (IM) service on behalf of the minor at a IM providing system with one or more servers. This is to prevent the situation wherein when the minor takes his/her IM device to another location having another base station and

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another host PC, usage of the IM device is dictated by a different set of IM preferences which may be less restrictive than the preferences stated in the host PC at home.

In the claimed invention, when a server in the IM system receives a request from the parent or guardian, the server provides a profile administrator interface to the parent or guardian. By using the provided interface, parent or guardian create a profile with one or more control policies for usage of the IM service by the minor at the server which is received by the server. When the minor associated with the profile makes a request to log on to the IM service using a client device, the IM system communicates information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

This ensures that the client device used by the minor will be limited with the functionality and/or features as desired by their parent or guardian.

**Prior art Gatz et al. (US Publication 2002/0049806) teaches:**

system and method for account based access control system allowing the holder of one account to control the ability of one or more other account holders to access information in an information network. receiving a request from a parent or guardian of a minor to sign up for an Instant Messaging (IM) service on behalf of the minor; receiving a profile created by parent or guardian; one or more control policies for usage of the IM service; receiving a request from the minor to log on to the IM service using a client device; limiting access to a user using a child account that is associated with a family

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account, where such limitations are determined, at least in part, based on selections made by a user of a parent account associated with the family account.

**Prior art Gatz et al. (US Publication 2002/0049806) does not teach:**

upon receiving a request from a minor to log on to the IM service using a client device, IM system communicating information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

**Prior art Parental Control Software by CSS teaches:**

idea of using a policy engine of the client device to limit usage of the IM service to the minor based on the at least one policy

**Prior art Parental Control Software by CSS does not teach:**

upon receiving a request from a minor to log on to the IM service using a client device, IM system communicating information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

**Prior art Plugin for AOL Instant Messenger teaches:**

Idea of using a plug-in for an instant messaging for allowing a user to customize Instant Messaging.

**Prior art Plugin for AOL Instant Messenger does not teach:**

upon receiving a request from a minor to log on to the IM service using a client device, IM system communicating information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

**Prior art Bell et al. (WO 3058464 A1) teaches:**

IM system and method for presenting information to a user and for managing the handling of multiple messages. A priority hierarchy is established and set by a user with respect to each conversant; Message from high priority conversants are delivered and displayed prior to messages from lower priority conversants.

**Prior art Bell et al. (WO 3058464 A1) does not teach:**

upon receiving a request from a minor to log on to the IM service using a client device, IM system communicating information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

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**Prior art Parental Control Geared To Child's Age teaches:**

system and method for parental controls wherein service provider has created categories with different age groups and each category has an associated limitation implemented by the service provider for members belonging to that age group.

**Prior art Parental Control Geared To Child's Age does not teach:**

upon receiving a request from a minor to log on to the IM service using a client device, IM system communicating information from the profile associated with the minor to the client device to modify the functionality of the client device by installing a plug-in to comply with at least one policy in the profile.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

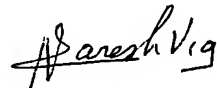
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Naresh Vig  
Examiner  
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November 14, 2006